

VIRGINIA'S FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT PROGRAM



Department of Conservation & Recreation

Fact Sheet

Fact Sheet No. 8

Letters of Map Change

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) recognizes that Flood Insurance Studies (FISs) may require revision due to new information becoming available or through physical changes in flood plains. Letters of Map Change include Letters of Map Amendment (LOMA), Letters of Map Revision (LOMR)

LOMAs issued under 44 CFR Part 70 of the NFIP regulations indicates whether or not a structure(s) or proposed structure(s) is located in a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) as shown on a Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) or Flood Hazard Boundary Map (FHBMA). A LOMA removes a property from the SFHA and thereby makes inapplicable the Federal requirement for the purchase of flood insurance. A LOMA will only be issued if the elevations of the parcel of land or if the grounds surrounding the structure(s) have not been altered by fill placed since the effective date of the first NFIP map designating the SFHA.

LOMRs can be issued under 44 CFR Part 65 of the NFIP regulations as an expeditious means of revising a FIRM or Flood Boundary Floodway Map (FBFM). The issuance of a LOMR involving fill will result in the removal of the parcel of land or structures from the SFHA and relief from the federal insurance requirement. The LOMR gives a detailed description of the Base Flood Elevation (BFE) and graphic changes that will be made to the SFHA currently delineated on the effective FIRM or FBFM. LOMRs involving BFE changes are always succeeded by a physical map revision. All requests for a LOMR-F involving fill must be supported by sufficient technical data to demonstrate that the entire area within the legal bounds of a parcel of land or the structures have been elevated by fill to or above the BFE and are not subject to inundation by the base flood. For structures, it must be demonstrated that both the lowest floor (including basement) and the lowest finished grade adjacent to the structure have been elevated by fill to above the BFE.

For more information regarding LOMAs or LOMRs refer to FEMA Manual FIA-12, Appeals, Revisions and Amendments to Flood Insurance Rate Maps—A Guide for Community Officials.

DIVISION OF DAM SAFETY & FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT

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FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT PROGRAM:

- ✓ *Planning & Enforcement Assistance*
- ✓ *Flood Insurance*
- ✓ *Technical & Flood-proofing Assistance*
- ✓ *Cooperating Technical Partners*
- ✓ *Map Modernization & Prioritization*
- ✓ *Substantial Damages & Increased Cost of Compliance*
- ✓ *Community Rating System*
- ✓ *No Adverse Impact*
- ✓ *Workshops*

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DCR Floodplain Mgt. Program
www.state.va.us/dcr/sw/floodpln.htm

